

new army are members of the old army in any event, would it not be much quicker to reconstitute the units of that old army—again, below the mid-officer level, so we don't have the Saddam regime involved—would it not be much quicker to follow the suggestion of the President of the Governing Council, reconstitute the units and move on from there?

The Secretary of Defense asked, in his leaked memorandum, if what the U.S. is doing is enough and what else should be considered. I am glad he asked those questions. As I said before, I am sorry he has not said publicly what he said privately in terms of his doubts and concerns. But having said that, I am glad he is raising questions. I am glad he is asking questions about whether we should change course in some way.

I have written to the Secretary of Defense to solicit his views on Mr. Alawi's proposal. Again, I hope Ambassador Bremer does consult with the Iraqi Governing Council, seek their recommendations on this issue, and not only solicit their recommendations but seriously consider ways to formulate an integrated and comprehensive plan to move more quickly to involve Iraqis in their own security and in their overall governance.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the New York Times, Oct. 19, 2003]
AMERICA MUST LET IRAQ REBUILD ITSELF
(By Iyad Alawi)

BAGHDAD, IRAQ.—No Iraqi will ever forget the momentous April day when a crowd of hundreds of cheering Baghdadis, helped by an American armored vehicle, pull the huge statue of Saddam Hussein to the ground. With this act, we tore down three decades of tyranny and repression and began building in its place a foundation for freedom, democracy and a better future for our children.

To see that this goal is achieved, the Bush administration has challenged me and my colleagues on the Iraqi Governing Council to draft a permanent constitution within six months and to move as quickly as possible to hold internationally monitored, free elections. We gladly accept that challenge, and welcome the vital assistance of the United Nations, through the Security Council resolution passed on Thursday, to see through to completion the enormous task ahead.

But we also realize that there are obstacles on Iraq's march toward democracy. In the months since Iraq was liberated, jubilation has given way to insecurity and chaos. When my fellow Iraqis finally go to the polls to elect their government, they must have confidence that state institutions are not only legitimate and independent, but robust enough to guarantee safety and civil rights. That is why the coalition and the council must take several immediate steps to establish these necessary conditions for the constitutional process to succeed.

First, it is vital to call up the Iraqi Army and the national police force, at least up to mid-officer level. The coalition's early decision to abolish the army and police was well intended, but it unfortunately resulted in a security vacuum that let criminals, diehards of the former regime and international terrorist flourish. And the coalition's plan to build a 20,000-member lightly armed force mostly responsible for security and border control could make poor use of a valuable re-

source: the 300,000 Iraqi soldiers who simply went home with their weapons in the face of the American-led invasion.

Most of these soldiers are Iraqi patriots who chose not to fight for Saddam Hussein. Americans should not confuse the Iraqi Army with the hated Republican Guard, which Saddam Hussein created precisely because he distrusted the legitimate military. In one simple process, the coalition authority can support the governing council to call the army back to its barracks for retraining and, ultimately, for redeployment. Most soldiers and their officers will proudly return to their units and contribute to their country's future.

The coalition and the Iraqi Interior Ministry can vet officers to remove those who committed crimes under the old regime, and then rapidly redeploy the most capable units to work with, and progressively relieve, American troops of security duties. Iraqi Army units have an established chain of command and esprit de corps. Not only can they be recalled to barracks immediately, but it would be much easier and quicker to retrain and re-equip them within their existing organizational structure than to start from scratch.

By supporting the recall of army units, the United States would not only speed the process of relieving the burden on its troops, it would also gain substantial good will in Iraq. In contrast, any American-led military presence, even if complemented by the United Nations, will never have the credibility and legitimacy that the Iraqi Army has among the people.

In addition, the Iraqi national police must also be recalled. Most Iraqi policemen—as opposed to Saddam Hussein's feared intelligence and security organs—are dedicated to law and order. The United States does not have the time or money to create a police force from the ground up, nor is it necessary, because we have a large, organized force that is ready and willing to serve.

Many other Iraqi governing institutions should also be reactivated by the governing council, with the support of the coalition authority. Special priority must be given to the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Finance, Oil and Education. The Iraqi bureaucracy must also be called back to work, although of course after screening to disqualify serious offenders of the former regime. Together, the council and the coalition leaders can modernize the state apparatus, phase out obsolete policies and practices, and encourage a new mindset of transparency and efficiency.

Finally, as security improves, Iraqi institutions are re-established and the constitutional drafting process is completed, the United States should support international recognition of Iraqi sovereignty. Then a recognized interim government could quickly present a popular referendum, under United Nations monitoring, on the new national constitution. It would be a grave mistake for the United States to hold out sovereignty and international recognition as the reward for passage of a constitution. Rather, making Iraqis once again a part of the international system is the prerequisite of successful reconstruction and a durable democratic system.

Iraqis are grateful for the tremendous efforts and sacrifices the United States is making on our behalf. Yet, ultimately, only Iraqis themselves can restore security, rebuild national institutions, enact a constitution and elect a democratic government. America must not rebuff Iraqis who are eager to have a stake in this intimate national process. Like any free people, we want to ensure that we are in control of our own destiny.

Mr. LEVIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, a week ago today, I came to the Senate floor to honor and to remember a young Ohio soldier who lost his life while bravely serving our Nation in Iraq. That young man, PFC Branden Oberleitner, had served proudly in the Army's 101st Airborne Division, based out of Fort Campbell, KY.

Today, I come again to the floor of the Senate to honor and to remember another young Ohio soldier who served proudly in the 101st Airborne Division, another young soldier who lost his life bravely defending our Nation and fighting to give a better life, freedom, and liberty to the people of Iraq.

Madam President, SGT Brett Thomas Christian was born on December 5, 1975. Growing up, Brett's life was not always easy. Like a lot of families, he and his mother Tess and brothers Sloan and Derek moved around a lot. As a young child, Brett was in and out of a number of schools, leaving old friends and making new ones each time. The family eventually settled in the Cleveland, OH, area, where, for a time, Brett attended Richmond Heights High School.

Brett adapted well to new environments and knew how to quickly make new friends. People liked Brett; they were drawn to him. He had a great sense of humor and an easy-going demeanor. The first thing people remember about Brett is his wit, his smile, his charm. His brother Derek said, "You couldn't be sad around him. He was just a funny guy."

But Brett also had a serious side. He was a smart person, a smart kid. He read a lot. In fact, he started reading at a very early age and ended up 2 years ahead in school. As his brother Sloan said, "He was always so smart. He blew away all the tests he took."

Brett was also a hard worker. His uncle remembers how he took a physically demanding job at a tropical fish farm. Each day, Brett would travel on his bike 5 miles there and 5 miles back. Rain or shine, Brett road those 10 miles to and from work, laboring tirelessly to get the job done and, yes, done well. He dreamed of opening a restaurant one day with his Richmond Heights High School buddy, Jonathan Wilke.

Brett completed his GED and decided to enlist in the U.S. Army. Brett's mom Tess said he was born to serve; that he always wanted to be a soldier. She said, "My son believed in honor, loyalty, good character, all those things."

Brett was assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion of the 502nd Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division. He trained to be a sniper and served a year in Korea before being called to Iraq.

Brett's job in Iraq was to drive a 2½-ton diesel carrier. It was grueling and dangerous work. SGT Shane Harris described Brett as one of his most dependable drivers. He was able to log 20-hour days moving soldiers, loads of ammunition, thousands of gallons of fuel, and pallets of bottled water, MREs, and other supplies.

Brett was one of the first American soldiers to cross the line into Iraq. SGT John Ryan recalled how he sent Brett in to push a line forward to secure a bridge. He said that he chose Brett because he was certainly up for it:

He believed in what we were there for. He knew what needed to be done. He knew how to lead from the front. He was sniper-qualified. He was mission-responsible. He was good under stress. He had a good head on his shoulders. He could always analyze and develop a course of action quickly.

On that same mission, it was later learned that some of our trucks got lost in Iraq after crossing the line. Not surprisingly, it was Brett who found them and, yes, got them out.

On July 23, 2003, SGT Brett Christian was killed and seven others were wounded near Mosul, Iraq, when his convoy was ambushed by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. He was 27 years old.

Madam President, Brett Christian was buried on the hollowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery on August 7, 2003. At that service, MAJ Douglas Fenton called Brett an American hero. He received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

There is no question that Brett Thomas Christian was a good man, a good son, brother, grandson, friend, and soldier. He was kind. He was compassionate. As his mother said:

They say the eyes are the windows of the soul. His eyes swelled with emotion. They were bright and welcoming.

At a memorial service for Brett in Ohio, Pastor Rick Duncan movingly described the kind of man Brett Christian became. This is what he said:

He was resourceful. He was gracious, never malicious. He never showed any sort of prejudice about anyone. He was responsible, uplifting, and thoughtful. He was a man of action. He was a charmer.

Ultimately, Brett Christian was a true warrior. Brett Christian made a lot of choices in his life. He chose to look at the positive, not the negative. He chose to see the good things in life and in people, not the bad. He chose to face fear and adversity head on and fight against the evil in our world. According to Brett's grandmother Eileen, the last time he was home he explained to his younger brother, who had indicated an interest in joining the military, exactly why he joined the Army. He wanted his brother to understand that he believed in what he was doing, that he believed in helping people and serving our country.

Let me conclude with something Sloan said about his beloved brother:

Brett had the most potential of anyone in the family—anyone I know. He's a beautiful soul who could have changed so much of the world. He had the love and ability to change a lot of the world.

Madam President, Brett Christian did change the world. Brett Christian did make a difference.

Brett's family—his mother Tess; his brothers Derek and Sloan; his grandparents Thomas and Eileen—remain in my thoughts and my prayers.

Madam President, I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. BENNETT. Madam President, one of the facts that those of us who live in the Washington area have grown accustomed to is that the world looks different through the eyes of the reporters for the Washington Post and the reporters for the Washington Times. My wife and I sometimes play the little game of opening both papers simultaneously and looking at the two headlines side by side. Usually, the Washington Times says things that sound good from the Republican point of view and the Washington Post says things that sound good from the Democratic point of view.

The interesting thing this morning is that both papers covered the same story, and both papers said basically the same thing.

I went into the cloakroom, and I gathered some other papers to see if the headlines were the same there as well. I have them here. Let's start with the Washington Times and the Washington Post.

The Washington Times says:

Growth Erupts in Summer Order. Consumers, Businesses, Go on a Spending Spree.

Out of the Washington Post—they treat that not quite as enthusiastically, but they say:

U.S. Economic Growth Surges. Output Rises at the Highest Rate Since 1984, but Jobs Still Decline.

So the Washington Post puts in a little bash there for the President that the Washington Times does not.

If we go to the Wall Street Journal, which some think of as a mouthpiece for the Republican National Committee, their headline is:

Higher Gear, Economy Turned in its Best Quarter in Nearly Two Decades. GDP Surged 7.2 Percent in Quarter on Broad Based Gains. Bush Team Trumpet Data.

To balance that from the Wall Street Journal, let's go to the newspaper some consider the house organ of the Democratic National Committee, the New York Times, and their headline is:

Economy Records Speediest Growth Since the Mid-80's. Is Good News Here for Good? Bush Hopes So. Third Quarter Data Surge in Spending Helped by Rebates May Not Persist.

Then I picked up USA Today, the screaming headline:

7.2 Percent GDP Growth, Fastest in 19 Years. Economists Credit Tax Relief and Shoppers.

For one day at least, everybody agrees that the No. 1 story is the tremendous performance turned in by the American economy in the third quarter, and the headlines trumpet the numbers, 7.2 percent GDP growth.

I would like to go behind the numbers. I would like to add a few numbers and do what I can to try to put this performance in perspective.

No. 1, we have to recognize what even the New York Times has recognized, which is this is an extraordinary accomplishment, and this is a sign of very good times.

I notice a quote from Howard Dean, who is running for President on the Democratic side, that indicates he is a little disappointed in this; he is a little unhappy that Americans are earning more money, that disposable income is up, that the economy is booming. Perhaps he was hoping he could ride into the White House on a wave of consumer dissatisfaction. If that is his hope, at least the third-quarter numbers say he has to find something else for which to hope.

But it is true that the numbers we have here are not sustainable long term, and that is not necessarily bad because what we are looking for is not a single quarter of extraordinary growth. What we are looking for is a sustained period of recovery. The signs are there that we are, indeed, in such a period. It is not just the 7.2 percent growth in GDP we need to pay attention to; it is some other numbers. Let me address some of those numbers.

They are in the newspaper stories, some of them buried a little further than I would do it if I were writing the story, but the first number that is of significance is the growth in business investment. Yes, as the headlines indicate, the tax relief and the shoppers are responsible for this, but the tax relief is, indeed, something of a one-time phenomenon. The mailing out of the checks for the child tax credit put more money in the hands of parents just before back-to-school shopping, and that showed up in the shopping figures.

Furthermore, the combination of the lowering of withholding rates along with the child tax credits causes people to go out and make some very significant purchases. New cars went up as a significant part of this performance in the third quarter, and you don't buy a new car every quarter. Undoubtedly, you will see some tapering off of some of these major purchases. So we can say that the fourth quarter will not be at the 7.2 percent level as far as GDP is concerned.

One of the newspapers says it will fall all the way down to 4 percent. Madam President, 4 percent on an annual basis is very robust and wonderful growth for an economy as mature as ours. If we could maintain a 4 percent average for the next 2 or 3 years, we